



Council

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Agenda item 10bis

Consideration, with a view to approval, of applications for extensions of contracts for exploration

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to an application by the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association for extension of a contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association and the Authority

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting upon the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,¹

Recalling that, on 22 May 2001, the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association entered into a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules with the Authority,

Recalling also that the contract was extended for a period of five years to 21 May 2021,²

Noting that, on 8 December 2020, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received an application for a five-year extension of the contract,

Recalling section 1, paragraph 9, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,³

Recalling also the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,⁴

* New dates of the in-person meetings originally scheduled for July 2020.

¹ See [ISBA/26/C/35](#).

² See [ISBA/22/C/24](#).

³ See United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

⁴ [ISBA/21/C/19](#).



Considering the report and recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to the application by the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association for extension of the contract,⁵

1. *Decides* to approve the application for extension of the contract;
 2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to execute the extension of the contract, with effect from 22 May 2021, by signature of an agreement in the form set out in appendix II to the annex to the decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority mentioned above;⁶
 3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its next session on the status of the extension agreement.
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⁵ [ISBA/26/C/35](#).

⁶ See [ISBA/21/C/19](#).